



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House Health Policy Committee

From: Wendy Block, Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Date: May 17, 2012

Re: Michigan Chamber Opposes Tamper Resistant Drug Mandate (HB 5643)

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the Michigan Chamber's opposition to House Bill 5643, legislation to prohibit pharmacists from dispensing or interchanging opioid drugs that incorporate tamper-resistant technology without receiving written consent from the prescribing provider. From a practical standpoint, HB 5643 would create a prescribing system that prioritizes costly, tamper resistant drugs over less costly, FDA-approved and therapeutically equivalent counterparts.

While the Michigan Chamber fully supports the sponsor's efforts to combat prescription drug abuse, we are opposed to this legislation because it would substantially increase costs for health insurance purchasers and patients via higher health insurance premiums and co-pays. This is because tamper-resistant drugs can cost up to 30 times as much as drugs without this technology.

Job providers support efforts to fight opioid drug abuse and overdose; however, we do not believe a costly tamper resistant drug mandate (HB 5643) is the best solution to this problem. We urge you to vote no on HB 5643. Please feel free to contact me at 517/371.7678 if you have any questions.